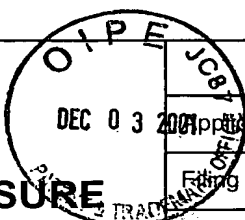


Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/915,549
Filing Date	July 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Muller
Group Art Unit	1615
Examiner Name	H. SHEIKH
Attorney Docket Number	62-662-57773

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code* (if known)			
<i>JS</i>	A1	5,534,502		Seki <i>et al.</i>	07-09-1996	—
<i>JS</i>	A2	5,651,991		Sugiyama <i>et al.</i>	07-29-1997	—
<i>JS</i>	A3	5,616,330		Kaufman <i>et al.</i>	04-01-1997	—

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
<i>JS</i>	A4	EP	0 296 845	A1	The University of Nottingham (DAVIS)	12-28-1988	—	N

Examiner Signature	<i>Hameed Y. Sheikh</i>	Date Considered	01-10-03
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3) ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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[illegible]

Examiner Signature	<i>Hameed M. Sheikh</i>	Date Considered	01-10-03
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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